

## Management Plan Planning Process

*Type of Meeting: Public Workshops*

*Date: 11/16/09, 11/17/09, 11/18/09, 11/19/09, and 12/2/09*

*Place: Morris Public Library, Morris*

*Lemont Village Hall, Lemont*

*Lock 16 Center, LaSalle*

*Four Rivers Environmental Education Center, Channahon*

*Alsip Park District Apollo Recreation Center, Alsip*

*Time: 5:30-7 PM (Morris) 7-8:30 (Lemont, Channahon, Alsip) 6:30-8PM (LaSalle)*

*Participants: 15 (Morris), 35 (Lemont), 28 (LaSalle), 30 (Channahon), 20 (Alsip)*

*Topic of Meeting: The Vision, Mission, and Guiding Principles of the Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor.*

*Meeting concept: At each of the five locations, participants were given an overview of the history of the National Heritage Corridor and the planning process for the development of a management plan for the Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor. The discussion then focused on the development of the vision, mission, and guiding principles for the heritage corridor. The participants were asked a series of questions throughout the workshop. The facilitator used the National Park Service definition of vision, mission, and guiding principles and example statements from other heritage areas to help inform the participants and guide discussion.*

### *Questions Asked*

- Vision-What do we want the Corridor to be?*
- What should the mission of the Illinois & Michigan Canal be?*
- What possible projects could be undertaken as part of the mission?*
- Guiding Principles- how we will value visitors, suppliers, partners and the members of the Corridor community. They describe fundamental values and the actions to put those values into use.*
- What would be the best way to communicate with people put those values into use?*
- How can CCA get the message out about the planning process to more people?*

### *Morris*

*What do you want the Corridor to be?*

- Having hiking trails*
- Having museums*
- Highlighting and promoting historic sites in the corridor*
- Offering boating and other experiences which connect people to nature*
- Developing lateral side cuts from the towpath leading to other trails and places of interest*
- Marking and promoting historic sites in the Ottawa area*

- *Restoration projects*
- *Developing better public transportation in the corridor*
- *Developing field trips, pathfinding and natural history experiences in the corridor*
- *Protecting wildlife*
- *Commercial integration, so that we have restaurants, lodging and visitor services available to visitors*
- *Developing period interpretation and re-creation activities*
- *Securing ongoing funding and revenue sources for the ongoing implementation of the plan*
- *Grooming and caring for the towpath so that there is a high quality trail throughout*
- *More and better signage, for both summer and winter applications*
- *Working with private property owners in a cooperative way*
- *Regional awareness: more publicity and becoming better known as a good place to visit*
- *Capitalizing on the assets within the corridor*
- *Providing education*
- *Developing a better and more distinct identity for the corridor*

*What should the mission of the Illinois & Michigan Canal be?*

- *preserving and conserving natural and cultural resources*
- *recreation*
- *fostering tourism*
- *telling the story of the corridor and the canal, connecting individual stories and economic stories (such as the Seneca grain elevator) to the story of the place*
- *respecting and preserving history*

*What possible projects could be undertaken as part of the mission?*

- *Publish informational articles*
- *Create school programs presenting with interpreters presenting stories of the canal and the people*
- *Improve the tow path*
- *Dredge and re-water the canal where it needs it*
- *Create ADA accessible places of interest in the Corridor*

- *Create ADA adventures*
- *Create a compact and easy to use map of all of the trails in the Heritage Area*
- *Do more to tell where to get "things"*
- *Add historical markers*
- *Do more interpretation of historic sites, such as Aux Sable*
- *Restore the swing bridge in Marseilles*
- *Stage events, such as a marathon, a bike race or a fishing derby*
- *Create a comprehensive list of all the activities available in the Corridor*
- *Generate informational activities*
- *Involve the eastern end of the Corridor more*
- *Find ways for the Corridor communities to work together more - create connectivity in the entire Heritage Area from LaSalle to Chicago*
- *Increase regional awareness*
- *Undertake a review of the Heritage Area boundaries and consider whether they should include some additional areas and communities*

*Guiding Principles- how we will value visitors, suppliers, partners and the members of the Corridor community. They describe fundamental values and the actions to put those values into use.*

- *Respect for history*
- *Respect for nature*
- *Determination to seek partnerships*
- *Providing accessibility to sites and activities*
- *Having a focus on economic development*
- *Fostering and maintaining respectful dialogue between all entities*
- *Recognize that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts*
- *Respect for property - public or private*
- *Generating respect for the National Heritage Area*
- *Striving to educate visitors and the community and future generations*

*What would be the best way to communicate with people put those values into use? Most people expressed a preference for email, although a few said they like regular mail.*

*How can CCA get the message out about the planning process to more people? One idea was to send re-enactors (people dressed in 1840's garb) to public events, such as parades, with handouts, to stir up more interest. Another was to have a canal "welcome wagon" travel around bringing the story of the National Heritage Area to different places. Another was to create a directory of the 'partner organizations' with an explanatory map that could be accessed at the Management Plan website. Overall, it was felt that more people would participate if there is a constant effort to reach out and build a sense of civic pride and awareness to all socio-economic groups and people of all ages in the corridor.*

### **Lemont**

*Vision-What do we want the Corridor to be?*

- *Connectivity, where each town enhances the whole*
- *Interpretation of the past - development of the canal and the corridor*
  
- *Preservation of the natural history of the corridor for future generations*
  
- *Building linkages and providing interactive opportunities (recreation), cultural (a destination), historical*
  
- *Providing recreation and outdoor activity for residents and visitors*
  
- *Comprehensive cooperative planning throughout, with regional planning for the corridor*
  
- *Working to insure compatibility of various different uses*
  
- *Making it possible to navigate (travel) the entire canal*
  
- *Securing sustainable funding and revenue sources*
  
- *Communities finding ways to work together for the good of the canal*
  
- *Educating the children of the corridor as to the story of the canal and making sure that schools participate in that education*
  
- *Promote tourism*
  
- *Accommodate groups for education and learning the story -- field trips in the corridor for both visitors and residents*

*What should the mission of the Illinois & Michigan Canal NHC be?*

*N/A*

*What possible projects could be undertaken as part of the mission?*

- *Fix the tow path*

- *Restorate the canal with youth involvement*
- *Preventative maintenance and restoration once restored*
- *Coordinated plan for conservation and restoration of the Lemont nature mega-site (canal, quarry, wetlands, etc.)*
- *Create a Flagg Creek Heritage Center Building - with educational opportunities*
- *Dredge the canal*
- *Continue the towpath trail from 135<sup>th</sup> Street to Lemont*
- *Duplicate the canal boat concept for each community with compatibility throughout*
- *Conduct flood plan study to see where we can best utilize each part of canal (hydraulic) (stormwater)*
- *Get a dedicated funding source for the canal*
- *Identify all the sites along the canal that need remediation*
- *Plan, fund and carry out remediation of all sites*
- *Create a coordinated visitor information and service center*
- *Build and connect Cal/Sag trail to I&M trail*
- *Fully develop Lemont quarry area*
- *Battle encroachments*
- *Have a consistent announcement communication for all new "pieces"*
- *Investigate radio station (H.S. and college cable) to use P.S.A.*
- *Have Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts - adopt a trail*

*Guiding Principles- how we will value visitors, suppliers, partners and the members of the Corridor community. They describe fundamental values and the actions to put those values into use.*

- *Respect for history*
- *Accurate and authentic portrayal*
- *Projects are sustainable*
- *Branding consistent and honestly shown*
- *Respect for the environment*
- *Create infrastructure to sustain*
- *Appreciation for history prior to the canal*
- *Economic development opportunities in co-operation with corridor assets*

- *Projects are eco-friendly*
- *True cooperation with all partners*
- *Remember all groups, even future generations*
- *Respect for property, public and private*
- *Respect individual community needs*
- *Strive to provide communications in multiple ways*

*What would be the best way to communicate with people put those values into use? Most people expressed a preference for email, although a few said they like regular mail.*

*How can CCA get the message out about the planning process to more people? Overall, it was felt that more people would participate if there is a constant effort to reach out and build a sense of civic pride and awareness to all socio-economic groups and people of all ages in the corridor.*

### *LaSalle*

*Vision-What do we want the Corridor to be?*

- *Visible destination that is fun, historic and acclaimed*
- *The Corridor has to be safe and navigable (the canal and the paths along it)*
- *Attractive to tourists*
  - o *Shops, eateries, brew pub*
  - o *Historical swing*
  - o *Overnight stays*
  - o *Recreational*
- *Clean up and improve historical sites*
- *Attractions in infrastructure to accommodate people for overnight stays*
- *Provide educational programming for visitors and residents*
- *Cohesive and comprehensive marketing throughout Corridor*
- *Provide a well maintained quality experience for all*
- *Walking/riding (fix and maintain the tow path)*
  - o *Water*
  - o *Camping*
  - o *Ecology/conservation*
- *Provide accessibility to all - young and old, disabled or not*

- *Make visiting and using the canal sites a user friendly experience*
- *More and better interpretive signage and international knowledge*
- *Functional historical sites where the architecture and features can be experienced*
- *Develop a commuter highway*
- *Make the Corridor self-sustaining*

*What should the mission of the Illinois & Michigan Canal NHC be?*

- *Tourism*
- *Visitors = users*
- *Openness, available, free*
- *Sustainability in all aspects*
- *Leadership to accomplish the vision*

*What possible projects could be undertaken as part of the mission?*

- *Have a summer program to repair and clean, like the New Deal's CCC -- "Adopt a Piece of Canal"*
- *Get water into the Canal at Ottawa*
- *Fix the aqueduct at Ottawa*
- *Fix holes in the tow path and make the surface "all-weather"*
- *Dredge the canal from Utica to Ottawa*
- *Create a comprehensive bicycle map for the Corridor*
- *Enhance the car driving map*
- *Create pod casts that people can download and listen to*
- *Get water in the canal at Canal Street*
- *Create a truck tour once a year for seniors*
- *Make things more accessible to all, especially the disabled*
- *Have fishing tournaments*
- *Create camping areas*
- *Start a Heritage Area marathon*
- *Repair drainage problems*
- *Integrate area state parks with the canal (trails, bike paths, etc.) to be together*
- *Have bicycle rentals available*

- *Connect to the canal to the Hennepin Canal*
- *Develop and maintain a consistent marketing strategy throughout the Corridor*
- *Make it possible to boat from LaSalle to Lake Michigan*

*Guiding Principles- how we will value visitors, suppliers, partners and the members of the Corridor community. They describe fundamental values and the actions to put those values into use.*

- *Enrich people's lives*
- *Truthfully educate all especially children*
- *Improve ecology*
- *Advance programs that are sustainable*
- *Think the big picture across the entire NHA*
- *Be eco-friendly*
- *Provide experiences that drive people to return*
- *Respect to public and private property*
- *Provide healthful activities*
- *Improve quality of life*
- *Equitable distribution of funding*
- *Foster government cooperation*

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*How can CCA get the message out about the planning process to more people? One idea was to send re-enactors (people dressed in 1840's garb) to public events, such as parades, with handouts, to stir up more interest. Another was to have a canal "welcome wagon" travel around bringing the story of the National Heritage Area to different places. Another was to create a directory of the 'partner organizations' with an explanatory map that could be accessed at the Management Plan website. Overall, it was felt that more people would participate if there is a constant effort to reach out and build a sense of civic pride and awareness to all socio-economic groups and people of all ages in the corridor.*

### ***Channahon***

*Vision-What do we want the Corridor to be?*

- *Make it a place where people will come (tourism)*
- *Create places where people will feel the history*

- *Create opportunity for people to experience the natural and cultural heritage*
- *Evoke a community sense of pride in place*
- *Make it pretty -- have esthetic value*
- *More usefulness and accessibility*
- *Provide educational experiences and opportunities through research*
- *Have total infrastructure that is well maintained*
- *Provide ADA accessibility with safety in mind for all*
- *The whole is greater than the sum of the parts*
- *Create connectivity throughout*
- *Have a network of communities that share common branding*
- *Make the Corridor one long history walk*
- *Cooperate in partnering with communities, organizations, schools, parks, towns and other groups*
- *Celebrate the agricultural, industrial and mining heritage of the area*
- *It should be sustainable - with sufficient monetary sources for future generations*

*What should the mission of the Illinois & Michigan Canal NHC be?*

- *The mission should include making the Corridor a place to have fun*
- *Save the environment . . . places, stories, history, cultural*
- *Encourage enjoyment (recreational land and water)*
- *Restoration of natural, historical and cultural features*

*What possible projects could be undertaken as part of the mission?*

- *Add signage for all "things" that were/are part of the canal*
- *Explain the engineering of the canal (do an "anatomy of the canal" educational piece)*
- *Get CBOT involvement in the canal history, since the CBOT and the canal open the same year and the canal was important to development of Chicago as a grain market*
- *Publish a canal book*
- *Create a canal library*
- *Create a maintenance plan, including preventive maintenance, for the canal*
- *Create a capital improvement plan*
- *Create a plan for places to stop throughout the Corridor*

- *Integrate the canal with the Corridor community to create destinations*
- *Reintroduce the DuPage feeder canal*
- *Do a hydraulic study*
- *Reconsider the Corridor's "Heritage Area" boundaries*

*Guiding Principles- how we will value visitors, suppliers, partners and the members of the Corridor community. They describe fundamental values and the actions to put those values into use.*

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*What would be the best way to communicate with people put those values into use? Most people expressed a preference for email, although a few said they like regular mail.*

*How can CCA get the message out about the planning process to more people? Several suggestions were made, with specific emphasis on reaching out to partner entities, such as local governments and park districts.*

### ***Alsip***

*Vision-What do we want the Corridor to be?*

- *Have a trail which included open intermodal connections throughout the Corridor*
- *Increase tourism and commercial amenities along the canal -- places to eat, for example*
- *Make connections to another state and federal parks, national shores*

- *Establish an interest for international visitors to see the ecology, cultural, history and educational programming*
- *Provide way for the Corridor to be a living history museum*
- *Make the Corridor a connector between the area's history and its waterways*
- *Capture and communicate the various histories along the entire Corridor, including those of our native Americans*
- *Provide transportation options to all areas in the Corridor*
- *Become the image and identity of the towns and places in the Corridor and make it a premiere regional destination*
- *There should be fun all around*
- *The Corridor should be exciting for all*
- *Encourage appreciation of diversity of the past, present and future*
- *Support and build on healthy local economic development*
- *Make the Corridor self sustaining*

*What should the mission of the Illinois & Michigan Canal NHC be?*

- *Stimulate increased economic development*
- *Implement marketing - regional, national and international*
- *Capture the stories to share and communicate*
- *Inspire the human experience through development of enriching destinations*

*What possible projects could be undertaken as part of the mission?*

- *Pave the trail*
- *Create and run guided tours*
- *Great a map with connections and key destinations*
- *Create canal related local festivals*
- *Create interest in all towns - with economic development/recreation*
- *Improve the tow path trail all the way along the Corridor*
- *Make it a real canal*
- *Create visitor centers for information on local history*
- *Increase continuity on "Wayfinding"*
- *Add map signage on the trail*
- *Develop market place analysis for the Corridor*
- *Develop a safe way marked through Joliet*

*Guiding Principles- how we will value visitors, suppliers, partners and the members of the Corridor community. They describe fundamental values and the actions to put those va Respect for native Americans' history and heritage*

- *Respect for the environment*
- *Active advocacy for conservation and preservation*
- *Accessibility for all users*
- *Foster healthy social/human interaction*
- *Encourage local economic development and participation*
- *Treat all places as being of equal importance*
- *Respect public and private property*
- *Embrace international participation*
- *Have sustainable use of resources*
- *Actively encourage fit lifestyle activities*
- *Use email and similar means of reaching out (such as Facebook/LinkedIn)*

*What would be the best way to communicate with people put those values into use?*

*Most people expressed a preference for email, although a few said they like regular mail.*

*How can CCA get the message out about the planning process to more people? Several suggestions were made advocating a constant effort to reach out and build a sense of civic pride and awareness to all socio-economic groups and people of all ages in the corridor.*

#### *Outcomes of Public Workshops held November-December 2009*

*The comments from this first round of public workshops were collected and used in the development of the actual vision, mission, and guiding principles or the foundation documents. Andy Connor, a CCA Board and Steering Committee member took meticulous notes of the public comments and developed the original draft of the foundation documents based on those notes. Also the e-mail and address information of all the participants was documented to create an e-news and mailing list that would allow us to keep the participants informed throughout the planning process.*

*Type of Meeting: Special Interest Committee Meeting*

*Date: 2/6/10*

*Place: Four Rivers Environmental Center, Channahon*

*Time: 8 AM-1:15 PM*

*Participants: 48*

***Topic of Meeting: Goals/Project Sheets***

*Meeting Concept: After a session with all participants to introduce the special interest categories and explain the goals and project sheet concept, each group then met separately to discuss participation, initial ideas and goals and a time schedule.*

***Outcomes***

*There were two major outcomes from this meeting: the establishment of special interest committees and the initial work on the Goal/Project Sheets. There were seven special interest committees established including: boundaries, civic engagement, conservation, education, heritage development, recreation, and tourism/economic development. The chairs of these committees worked with their committees to complete the goal/project sheets, which were used throughout the rest of the planning process.*

*Type of Meeting: Steering Committee<sup>1</sup> Meeting*

*Date: 5/19/10*

*Place: Four Rivers Environmental Center, Channahon*

*Time: 3-5 PM*

*Participants: 12 members of the Steering Committee*

*Topic of Meeting: The meeting focused on the role of the Steering Committee in the planning process, the foundation documents, and the development of a governance model to facilitate the coordination of activities of the heritage corridor within the Canal Corridor Association.*

*Outcomes*

*At the initial meeting of the steering committee, the vision, mission, and guiding principles of the heritage corridor were discussed in detail. Andy Connor's first draft of the foundation documents was analyzed, the comments submitted by the public were reviewed from the management plan blog, and suggestions for improving the vision, mission, and guiding principles were discussed. Based on this, the steering committee selected Andy Connor to redraft the foundation documents for review at the next steering committee meeting.*

*Leslie Jacobs, a consultant with Leslie W. Jacobs and Associates, presented three possible models for governance of the coordinating entity. The discussion included what types of decisions will need to be made to advance the goals of the legislature and management plan and what structure and procedures should be established to meet those goals. The steering committee decided that the governance model created should be within the Canal Corridor Association. Ms. Jacobs was tasked with compiling the ideas and suggestions into a proposed governance alternative for further discussion and approval at a future steering committee meeting.*

*Type of Meeting: Steering Committee Meeting*

*Date: 6/23/10*

*Place: Four Rivers Environmental Center, Channahon*

*Time: 4-6 PM*

*Participants: 12 member of the steering committee*

*Topic of Meeting: Foundation documents, discussion of IMCNHC boundaries, proposed governance alternatives*

*Outcomes*

*At the second steering committee meeting, the revised foundation documents (vision, mission, guiding principles) were unanimously approved. The steering committee's sub-committee on boundaries gave a report on their meeting with Dr. Michael Conzen<sup>2</sup> from the University of Chicago. The boundary committee will work on developing revised boundaries for the heritage corridor. Leslie Jacobs, of Leslie*

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<sup>1</sup> The steering committee was comprised of the chairs of the special interest committees, former federal commissioners of the Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor and Canal Corridor Association board members.

<sup>2</sup> Dr. Michael Conzen assisted in the development of the 1984 IMCNHC boundaries and in the subsequent 1997 boundary study authorized by Congress.

*W. Jacobs and Associates, presented the governance model she had developed based on the discussion at the last steering committee. The steering committee suggested several changes to the proposed governance model. Leslie Jacobs incorporated these changes into a revised draft for approval by the committee.*

***Type of Meeting: Steering Committee Meeting***

***Date: 7/14/10***

***Place: Arrowhead Community Center, Channahon***

***Time: 4-6 PM***

***Participants: 9 members of the steering committee***

***Topic of Meeting: Civic Engagement Plan, Project Sheets, and Governance Structure Outcomes***

*The steering committee discussed the civic engagement plan, a multi-level program for public participation in the programs and activities of the heritage corridor. The bulk of the meeting was a discussion of the proposed projects for the management plan submitted by the six sub-committees including: civic engagement, conservation, education, heritage development, recreation, and tourism. The proper categorization and documentation of projects for the plan was decided. The steering committee discussed the governance model in detail and suggested some new terminology be used. Progress was made towards the development of the format of the management plan although nothing was finalized during the meeting.*

***Type of Meeting: Public Workshop***

***Date: 8/4/10, 8/5/10***

***Place: Lemont Village Hall, Ottawa City Hall***

***Time: 7-9 PM***

***Participants: 56 (Lemont), 30 (Ottawa)***

***Topic of Meeting: The second round of public workshops allowed the public to weigh-in on the allocation of resources and determine the priority of projects within the IMCNHC.***

***Meeting Concept: The participants were asked a series of questions meant to ascertain what direction the IMCNHC Steering Committee should take in developing the projects and goals for the I&M National Heritage Corridor Management Plan. After an explanation of the each question, participants were asked to move about the room and fill in posted charts for each question to allow informal discussion of the questions and cause active participation.***

***Questions Asked/Comments***

*The summary data collected at those meetings is listed below under each question asked by town and the total of both.*

**QUESTION 1: If you were the leader of the Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor with \$100,000 to spend, how would you divide the money between the different activities of the heritage corridor?**

*The results are tabulated in the columns below. They indicate the average for all the responses given at each meeting (Lemont and Ottawa) and also the total of all respondents (Total) from both meetings.*

	Total	Lemont	Ottawa
Conservation	\$ 17,300	\$ 16,400	\$ 19,700
Education and Interpretation	\$ 16,800	\$ 17,000	\$ 16,700
Heritage Development	\$ 24,800	\$ 27,000	\$ 18,100
Recreation	\$ 20,300	\$ 17,600	\$ 26,600
Tourism & Marketing	\$ 20,900	\$ 21,700	\$ 18,900

**QUESTION 2: In your opinion, are the following proposed core activities of the I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor: very important (3), somewhat important (2), not very important (1), or definitely not important (0)**

*The results were tabulated by assigning the number scores in parenthesis after each choice above to all responses and then deriving an arithmetical average. They are shown below in the order given to the public. The results from the two meetings were statistically the same. Five of the six core activities identified in earlier meetings ranked important to the public. Only the internship program had varied results as to its importance to the public.*

**Public Involvement (2.43)**

*Allow the general public and stakeholders to participate in the decision making process through a multi-level program. This process will facilitate communication throughout the development and implementation of the management plan and disseminate information to the public through print and multi-media to reach the broadest possible audience.*

**Partner Coordination (2.72)**

*Build/promote partner coordination within the I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor. Facilitate the networking of partner organizations around several different interest areas including but not limited to education, interpretation, and tourism. Work with IDNR and local governments to facilitate agreements which promote outstanding stewardship of the I&M Canal and other state resources in the Corridor.*

**Volunteer Program (2.57)**

*Develop/maintain a diverse volunteer program for the Corridor with a variety of volunteer opportunities for all partners including but not limited to tour guides, trail stewards, native habitat stewards, and volunteer educators.*

**Internship Program (1.85)**

*Develop/maintain a student based internship program for college students within the Corridor. The program would match partner organizations with college students to complete projects throughout the Corridor.*

***IMCNHC Website (2.52)***

*Develop/maintain an Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor website. The website will supply large amounts of information about the I&M Canal NHC while encouraging tourists to visit the and enjoy the Corridor's many resources.*

***Marketing Plan/Program (2.56)***

*Develop/maintain a marketing plan/program for the I&M Canal NHC to increase the public awareness of the Corridor, its many resources, and special events within the Corridor.*

***Maintain the I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor Infrastructure (2.60)***

*Develop/maintain the infrastructure of the Heritage Corridor through a diverse range of activities including by not limited to maintaining interpretive and wayfinding signage and promoting historic preservation.*

***QUESTION 3: The committees have established 26 goals/projects. In your opinion, when should the following 26 goals/projects be started: as soon as possible (ASAP), 3-5 years (3-5), 6-10 years (6-10), sometime in the future (SF), never do this project (NP). Fill in the blanks below with the appropriate timetable. (Please fill this section on this handout. It will be collected at the end of our public workshop.)***

*The number of responses for each possible answer is given after each question below in the order the projects were presented at the workshops.*

***1. Establish visitor centers for the Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor (IMCNHC) in the major cities of the Corridor.***

*Total Responses: 66 ASAP: 23 3-5: 25 6-10: 13 SF: 5 NP:0*

***2. Promote I&M Canal themed festivals throughout the Corridor and establish content standards for festival recreation, entertainment, food, music, educational opportunities, etc.***

*Total Responses: 66 ASAP: 17 3-5: 27 6-10: 10 SF: 11 NP: 1*

***3. Encourage/develop books about the IMCNHC to include, but not be limited to, a travel guide, a definitive history of the I&M Canal, and a scrapbook style journal.***

*Total Responses: 65 ASAP: 15 3-5: 19 6-10: 15 SF: 16 NP: 0*

4. *Develop a passport book program for the IMCNHC with cancellation stamps located at a variety of locations throughout the Corridor.*

*Total Responses: 65 ASAP: 14 3-5: 15 6-10: 11 SF: 16 NP: 9*

5. *Develop audio tours, podcasts, phone apps, and other media for use along the IMCNHC.*

*Total Responses: 66 ASAP: 17 3-5: 24 6-10: 9 SF: 16 NP: 0*

6. *Use the IMCNHC website to distribute lessons plans, guides, materials and programs about the I&M Canal generated by educators inside or outside the Corridor.*

*Total Responses: 66 ASAP: 26 3-5: 28 6-10: 8 SF: 4 NP: 0*

7. *Reinstate the 530 AM broadcasting service for information about the Corridor.*

*Total Responses: 66 ASAP: 23 3-5: 11 6-10: 7 SF: 18 NP: 7*

8. *Locate, organize, and support a bank of resource experts [I&M Canal Educators and Interpreters] across and within the five counties of the Corridor.*

*Total Responses: 66 ASAP: 22 3-5: 30 6-10: 7 SF: 7 NP: 0*

9. *Create learning experiences for use by the schools along the Corridor that expand the canal story to include the local communities.*

*Total Responses: 66 ASAP: 25 3-5: 29 6-10: 5 SF: 7 NP: 0*

10. *Generate and disseminate I&M Canal materials to special interest groups such as: young children, naturalists, non-US citizens, history buffs, and special needs.*

*Total Responses: 66 ASAP: 21 3-5: 19 6-10: 13 SF: 11 NP: 2*

11. *Develop a guide and/or include on the IMCNHC website as an informational resource of recreational activities within the Corridor.*

*Total Responses: 66 ASAP: 46 3-5: 17 6-10: 1 SF: 2 NP: 0*

12. *Develop a guide and/or include on the IMCNHC website as an informational resource of tourism activities within the Corridor.*

*Total Responses: 66 ASAP: 37 3-5: 22 6-10: 2 SF: 5 NP: 0*

13. *Include conservation activities in the Corridor on the IMCNHC website.*

Total Responses: 66 ASAP: 33 3-5: 24 6-10: 7 SF: 2 NP: 0  
14. Create a Corridor bicycling plan, which will build on existing resources and use partnerships to expand bicycling opportunities.

Total Responses: 67 ASAP: 47 3-5: 16 6-10: 2 SF: 2 NP: 0

15. Develop a plan to: (a) link disconnected portions of the I&M Canal Trail from LaSalle/Peru to the Chicago Portage site and (b) connect the I&M Canal Trail to other existing/planned regional trails.

Total Responses: 67 ASAP: 31 3-5: 22 6-10: 10 SF: 3 NP: 1

16. Improve maintenance of the I&M Canal Trail by developing a program designed to improve trail conditions and locate funding sources for trail maintenance.

Total Responses: 66 ASAP: 42 3-5: 17 6-10: 5 SF: 2 NP: 0

17. Design, construct, install and maintain directional signage along the I&M Canal Trail.

Total Responses: 66 ASAP: 35 3-5: 26 6-10: 3 SF: 2 NP: 0

18. Inventory camping facilities within the Corridor with the purpose of developing a Corridor concept plan for additional campgrounds and/or improvement/expansion of existing facilities.

Total Responses: 66 ASAP: 13 3-5: 26 6-10: 17 SF: 9 NP: 1

19. Institute an annual state "Canal Day" to raise awareness of the Canal Corridor and to discuss its management issues with state officials and agencies. The CCA will use success stories, from the Corridor; to demonstrate IMCNHC's positive effect on the communities within it's boundaries.

Total Responses: 66 ASAP: 32 3-5: 18 6-10: 7 SF: 7 NP: 2

20. Support efforts to secure increased and improved rail service to the Heritage Corridor, i.e. additional commuter passenger train service and high-speed rail between Chicago and St. Louis.

Total Responses: 65 ASAP: 16 3-5: 20 6-10: 11 SF: 14 NP: 4

21. Map the Corridor using the geographic information system (GIS) technology.

Total Responses: 66 ASAP: 28 3-5: 25 6-10: 7 SF: 6 NP: 0

22. *Compile a photographic and text inventory of all public and private resources of the IMCNHC.*

*Total Responses: 67 ASAP: 21 3-5: 30 6-10: 9 SF: 11 NP: 1*

23. *Institute "CANAL-CAT," a program modeled after IDNR's "ECO-CAT." This system would enable people to ask questions or raise issues with IDNR concerning the I&M Canal. This system would provide a direct and timely form of communication with IDNR, and enable IDNR to direct the issue to the proper office or person.*

*Total Responses: 67 ASAP: 28 3-5: 20 6-10: 8 SF: 6 NP: 5*

24. *Identify, review, and recommend best management practices for all storm water discharge into the IMCNHC.*

*Total Responses: 65 ASAP: 26 3-5: 25 6-10: 9 SF: 5 NP: 0*

25. *Removal of invasive tree and shrub species along the canal to: improve ground cover, reduce erosion, and enhance the viewscape along the Corridor.*

*Total Responses: 65 ASAP: 29 3-5: 19 6-10: 14 SF: 3 NP: 0*

26. *Develop intergovernmental and land-use agreements, as well as, private property conservation easements to protect and preserve existing open space along the Corridor.*

*Total Responses: 63 ASAP: 33 3-5: 23 6-10: 5 SF: 2 NP: 0*

**QUESTION 4: Add a Project: Are there any goals/projects missing from our list? Please include the title, goal, and description of the project and contact info to obtain more information about the proposed project.**

*The data below lists all the responses from the public. Any of the responses, which were represented in the core activities or in the list of projects developed by the committees, were eliminated from the list below. For ease of understanding, the information is grouped into the following categories of projects, comments, questions and concerns.*

### **Tourism Projects**

- *Conduct a regional evaluation of tourism attractions.*
- *Enhance website to give more current information, maps, GPS and trail maps.*

- *Update and reprint driving tour map to generate tourist traffic.*
- *Ecotourism and/or local food tours-local organic farms, wineries, restaurants combined or separate with local natural sites.*

#### *Heritage Development Projects*

- *Generate a plan to develop retail opportunities for private enterprise throughout.*
- *Retailers-profit motive as a subset for tourism development.*
- *Towns of LaSalle, Utica, and Ottawa coordinate effort to take canal the canal property private from IDNR from Ottawa to LaSalle.*

#### *Capital Projects*

- *Lemont Visitor Center (at the former police station next to village hall)*
- *Flagg Creek Heritage Center*
- *Operational Lock along the I&M Canal (# 6 and #14 suggested)*
- *I&M Heritage Canal Legacy Park-Joliet. (2)*
- *I&M Canal Museum: Freestanding museum to house and showcase canal historic artifacts of Lewis University and Will County Historical Society. (2)*
- *Relocate Will County Historical Society Heritage Village in Lockport along the Canal.*
- *Develop a campsite for bikes at Locktender's house at Aux Sable*
- *Restore, develop and maintain the I&M Canal Commissioners office. (2)*

#### *Recreation Projects*

- *White water training on the canal (2)*
- *Sculls competition*
- *Make the canal usable for kayak and canoes to attract Starved Rock visitors (2)*
- *More public use and exposure of the I&M Canal with a bicycle rally and/or a marathon or 5k.*

- *Trails:*
  - *Centennial Trail: connect I&M Canal Trail to confluence*
  - *Develop physical trails and establish trail standards for signage, and trail design*
  - *Mapping (canal trail?) for users. Create connections to other trails, businesses, ect.*
  - *Identify all details of trail access points*
  - *Develop a complete map of the corridor with trails, tributaries, pedestrian, bike, and public transit access (especially Metra) connections to other trails, local access to businesses*
  - *Develop a consistent set of standards for signage; trail design and maintenance access points, amenities, etc.*
  - *Kaskaskia Alliance Trail: Lock 15 Bridge add connection of I&M Canal Trail and Hennepin Canal Trail.*
  - *Extend I&M Canal Trail to include proposed CalSag Trail*
  - *Pave bike path in Lemont Area*
  - *Enhance I&M Canal Trail Parking at Lemont creating easy access for biking and rollerblading*
  - *Confluence Trail Extension-create a one mile paved extension from the I&M Canal bike trail at Willow Springs to SEPA station at confluence of Sanitary Ship Canal and CalSag (Plan already developed)*
  - *Reopen the Canal Trail between Marseilles and Ottawa. Re-dredge and add in both locations*
  - *Seniors/ADA-allow use of golf carts and scooters on the trail/towpath*

### ***Canal Maintenance Projects***

- *Clean and fix towpath near Buffalo Road and remove the sledge. (IDNR)*
- *Re-water the canal, research ways to keep the water in the canal fresh and aesthetically pleasing.*
- *Repair and restore rotating train bridge in Marseilles.*
- *Water entire canal in 10-15 years.*

- *Dredge existing waterway from LaSalle to Utica for use by Canal Boat from LaSalle to Utica.*
- *Restore and rejuvenate the I&M Canal through dredging and cleansing of canal for better water quality.*
- *Improve open space and water quality along the I&M Canal.*
- *Dredge LaSalle to Utica for use by canal boat and kayak/canoes.*
- *Make the entire canal and trail usable for canoes/bikes.*
- *Canal Cleanup Day one weekend a year. Promote in towns/cities along the canal.*

### **Comments**

- *Legal protection of Heritage Canal Corridor from commercial interests*
- *Legal protection of Canal Corridor vs. commerce, pollution, and improper sale.*
- *GIS should be a top priority for planning and outreach*
- *I feel like there should be a dedicated project for the preservation of the canal itself, particularly the preservation of the canal walls where they are still intact.*
- *Also, maybe a goal to position the CCA to help guide major tourism improvements along the Corridor (in addition to visitor centers).*
- *I believe the Canal itself needs serious maintenance in several areas to clean it and improve flow. This is not mentioned as a project.*
- *Tourism and marketing efforts neglect the Lockport areas east. Efforts all seem to be focused on LaSalle, Ottawa, and somewhat on the portage.*
- *I think all projects are important. However I do not see any mention given to cleaning up the canal. Is that a given for each town? There are areas (Lemont) among others that need help in that area. There is hardly a need for help in that area. There is hardly a need for tourism when areas are not attractive. Would like to see Lemont promoted more in visitor's guide*
- *Any sort of bicycle plan should include an option for bike/equipment rental.*

- *Engineering (plan?) of I&M Canal needs to be written-what tributaries? Condition of locks- How did the Canal work and funding--For those die-hard canal addicts who live around the world. Masters/PHD thesis? Contracted in one-mile increments.*
- *I think it is important to network with each other- it seems emphasis is often placed on certain areas.*
- *Most important project is the cleaning of the Lemont portion of the canal. All money, time, volunteers, resources, should be put into the cleaning first and the corridor will follow.*
- *Make it easy for people to volunteer and get involved.*
- *More entry points for canoeing*

#### *Question*

- *Is there an archaeological survey of the Corridor? The Illinois Archeological survey (IAS) could be helpful.*

#### *Concern*

- *Increased rail traffic and pedestrian recreational use is a recipe for disaster (or cost prohibitive-infrastructure to separate the two). Pick only one. Both rail traffic and pedestrian recreational use in close proximity is a bad plan*

*QUESTION 5: Do you know of any resources, sites, organizations, or other entities that should be included or involved in the heritage area that you don't think we know about. Please include contact information so our committee can follow-up.*

*The list below is the organizations that have not been solicited to join the management planning effort. Organizations that were previously included in any Management Plan mailing are not shown below.*

*Access ARRA Federal Recovery & Revitalization dollars  
 Active Transportation Alliance  
 Bicyclists Clubs (various, local)  
 Canal Museum in Delphi, Indiana  
 Chicago Regional Tourism District Office  
 Chicago Wilderness  
 Community Colleges around the Corridor*

*Equestrian Groups (Illinois Trail Riders, Trail Riders of DuPage)*  
*Illinois Audubon Society*  
*Illinois River Road-Scenic Byway*  
*Illinois Valley Cycling Association*  
*Joliet Project Pride & Canallers History Interpreters*  
*League of Illinois Bicyclists*  
*Lemont Public Library*  
*Northern IL Regional Tourism Office*  
*Ottawa Canal Association*  
*Ottawa River Rescue*  
*Public Libraries around the Corridor*  
*Starved Rock Cycling Association*  
*Will County Land Use Department - Rural Structure Survey*

***Outcomes of the Public Workshops held August 2010***

*The second round of public workshops allowed the public to weigh-in on the allocation of resources and determine the priority of projects within the IMCNHC. The information collected from the participants provided the steering committee with a sense of the public's priorities for what should be included in the management plan and what the public felt the core activities of the heritage corridor should be. The public workshops also expanded our list of potential activities and partners. Contact information was collected from participants and the e-mail and mailing list was expanded.*

*Type of Meeting: Steering Committee Meeting*

*Date: 8/18/10*

*Place: Four Rivers Environmental Center, Channahon*

*Time: 4-6 PM*

*Participants: 11 members of the Steering Committee*

*Topic of Meeting: Data collected from the August Public Workshop*

*Outcomes:*

*The steering committee reviewed the data collected from the August 2011 public workshops. The data helped inform the steering committee of the public's priorities for the management plan. This information was used to guide the decision process going forward with the development of the management plan.*

*Type of Meeting: Steering Committee Meeting*

*Date: 9/29/10*

*Place: Arrowhead Community Center, Channahon*

*Time: 4-6 PM*

*Participants: 7 members of the Steering Committee*

*Topic of Meeting: Goals, Strategies, and Activities for the IMCNHC*

*Outcomes*

*The steering committee reviewed the first draft of the goals, strategies and activities proposed for the heritage corridor. Steering committee member Ana Koval, CCA President & CEO and also chairman of the Civic Engagement Committee, wrote the initial draft of the proposed goals, strategies, and activities. The draft was largely based on the public input gathered during the August Public Workshops. Comments and/or suggestions for revision were to be e-mailed to Ana Koval before the next steering committee meeting.*

*Type of Meeting: Steering Committee Meeting*

*Date: 10/20/10*

*Place: Four Rivers Environmental Center, Channahon*

*Time: 3-5PM*

*Participants: 8 members of the Steering Committee*

*Topic of Meeting: Boundaries, Governance*

*Outcomes*

*There were two major outcomes of the October 2010 steering committee meeting. First the boundaries committee will draft the revised boundaries for the Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor as proposed by the 1997 Boundary Study authorized by Congress and as amended by the steering committee. Second, the steering committee approved the governance model subject to the public's opinion at a future public workshop.*

*Type of Meeting: Public Workshop*

*Date: 11/3/10, 11/9/10, 11/10/10, 11/11/10*

*Place: Chicago Architecture Foundation, Chicago*

*Joliet City Hall, Joliet*

*Seneca Village Hall, Seneca*

*Alsip Village Hall, Alsip*

*Time: 5:30-7:30 PM (Chicago), 7-9 PM (Joliet, Seneca, Alsip)*

*Participants: 10 (Chicago), 15 (Joliet), 10 (Seneca), 9 (Alsip)*

*Topic of Meeting: How to involve the public in the programs and activities of the IMCNHC.*

*Meeting Concept: The facilitator after updating everyone on the progress of the Plan, focused all participants to provide input either verbally and tracked on a flip chart or written on index cards.*

### *Questions Asked/Comments*

*The four public meetings throughout the corridor were to accomplish two main goals. One to further inform all about the current status of the Plan and its future schedule and two, to once again gather input from those attending on topics specific to the Plan and its implementation. We met first in Chicago on Nov. 3rd, in Joliet on Nov. 9th, in Seneca on Nov. 10th and in Alsip on Nov. 11th.*

*For these sessions the focus was on an individual's opinion relating to the Canal and the Corridor. It was how the individual may relate to the Canal, whether from an interest level, a preservation level or a volunteer level. Nine major questions were asked of the audience that generated a wealth of information in their responses. The nine major questions and secondary questions are listed below.*

*Q1 - How can you best receive information that you will use and find useful?*

*Follow-up - What information is most important to you - Date, time, place, activity*

*What about frequency - daily, weekly, monthly, as needed?*

*Q2 - What do you want to be involved with in the Canal and in the Corridor? (Rank these 1-5, where 1 is the highest)*

*Recreating*

*Educating (Giving or getting)*

*Discovering (History or Nature)*

*Preserving (History or Nature)*

*Selling/Serviceing (the people doing all the above)*

*What do you think the Management Plan's priority order should be?*

*Q3 - Where are you on a continuum of interest?*

*Level 1: Information consumer*

*Level 2: Information responder*

*Level 3: Activity participant*

*Level 4: Activity leader*

*Level 5: Investor*

*Level 6: Enthusiast*

*Q4 - What importance is it for you to have the Canal and its activities in your area? Why?*

*Q5 - What do you want from the canal/national heritage corridor?*

*Q6 - What do you think others need to know about the canal to be involved? How would you get other people like yourself involved in the corridor and its activities?*

*Q7 - How do you picture yourself in the canal corridor? With the boy scouts camping or exploring, conservation efforts to rid of an invasive species, fishing, building a business, restoring a historical site, lecturing a group on a topic very dear to you.*

*Q8 - What would increase your interest in the canal?*

*Q9 - What would make you want to volunteer to help? What should we say? What should we do?  
How would it effect you the greatest?*

### **Summary Discussion of Responses**

*The following summary provides a general overview of responses for each question across the entire corridor. In general, the answers were similar, but also seemed to be based on the interest level and perspective of the attendees. Since the numbers attending were not of a significant count, the data is not conclusive, but certainly is the perspective of people that are interested in the Canal and the Corridor. Also information on opinions can certainly be interpreted in more than one way, especially considering the context of each session. The data collected at each session is presented in the appendix of this report.*

*Q1 - How can YOU best receive information that you will use and find useful?*

*Overall, everyone liked email except for a very few who do not have Internet access. All said that email with succinct statements; bullets, short paragraphs, links and printable pdf's would work best. Other suggestions were a more robust website and blog, flyers at partner organization for informational and promotional purposes, an email forwarding system with partner organizations, local TV, radio and news media, an e-newsletter sign-up, a presence in the social media (like Facebook and*

Twitter) and a presence in the historical society newsletters throughout the corridor.

Q2 - What do YOU want to be involved with the Canal and in the Corridor? (You)  
 Second question - What do you think the Management Plan's order should be? (MP)  
 (Rank these 1-5, where 1 is the highest)

These results were very consistent across the corridor for the first question (What the INDIVIDUAL wanted to be involved with) with a very strong showing of Recreation as #1. However, it was very different with what each session thought the priorities of the Plan should be, as well as, different comparing the individual to the Plan priorities. The entire results tables are in the appendix, but shown below is the summary tally of response rankings. The only consistency in both was the very low ranking for commerce activity (selling/servicing).

Summary Priority Rankings for Question 2  
both Individual(You) and Management(MP)

	<i>Chi You</i>	<i>Chi MP</i>	<i>Jol You</i>	<i>Jol MP</i>	<i>Sen You</i>	<i>Sen MP</i>	<i>Alsp You</i>	<i>Alsp MP</i>	<i>Ovrall You</i>	<i>Ovrall MP</i>
<i>Recreating</i>	1	4	1	3	2	2	1	4	1	3
<i>Educating</i>	4	3	3	2	3	5	3	1	3	2

	<i>Chi You</i>	<i>Chi MP</i>	<i>Jol You</i>	<i>Jol MP</i>	<i>Sen You</i>	<i>Sen MP</i>	<i>Alsp You</i>	<i>Alsp MP</i>	<i>Ovrall You</i>	<i>Ovrall MP</i>
<i>Discovering</i>	2	5	2	4	4	3	2	5	2	5
<i>Preserving</i>	3	1	4	1	1	1	4	2	4	1
<i>Selling/Servicing</i>	5	2	5	5	5	4	5	3	5	4

*Q3 - Where are YOU on a continuum of interest?*

*To better gauge the level of interest of the audience, this question allowed for multiple responses. As the Level increased, so did the amount of activity and/or commitment of the person with the Corridor. The table below presents the raw data collected at each session. As you will see there is some inconsistency in the data where some respondents didn't participate at one level yet did at the next higher level. A significant finding is that 2/3 of all attendees considered themselves at the Investor Level (5) or those that invest time or money or services in kind for the corridor. From that perspective, these sessions did reach a group of people whose opinions are critical for the Management Plan and are interested in our outcome.*

*Chart of Number of Attendees at each session and their interest level*

<i>LEVEL</i>	<i>Chicago</i>	<i>Joliet</i>	<i>Seneca</i>	<i>Alsip</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>8</i>

<i>LEVEL</i>	<i>Chicago</i>	<i>Joliet</i>	<i>Seneca</i>	<i>Alsip</i>
<i>3</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>4</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>5</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>6</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>

*Level 1: Information consumer*  
*Level 2: Information responder*  
*Level 3: Activity participant*  
*Level 4: Activity leader*  
*Level 5: Investor*  
*Level 6: Enthusiast*

*Q4 - What importance is it for YOU to have the Canal, and its activities in your area? Why?*

*As with all open ended questions, this one led to an array of answers across the entire corridor. However, there was a constant theme in a majority of the answers in four major areas -*

- Historical significance within and between communities (connectivity with the roots of the area)*
- Tourism (destinations throughout) and economic development*
- Recreational activities potential*
- Restoration of the canal itself and the immediate area along it.*

*The entire list of responses given at each session is included in the appendix. The responses will all be referenced, especially those that don't fit in the above majority topic areas to assure that all ideas are considered in our planning.*

*Q5 - What do YOU want from the canal/national heritage corridor?*

*All were asked to complete the sentence "I would like the I&M National Heritage Corridor to ...". This is an opportunity to understand what the individual would like to specifically see/have/experience in the corridor and the response showed a great divergence of opinion. The table below represents the number of times the left*

column "Key Word" was mentioned in the individual's responses that were written on index cards at each session.

Chart of Responses for Question 5 of Key Word mentioned

	<i>Chicago</i>	<i>Joliet</i>	<i>Seneca</i>	<i>Alsip</i>
<i>Recreate</i>		2	4	3
<i>Educate</i>		6		
<i>Communicate</i>	1	4	4	3
<i>Preserve</i>	4	5	4	2
<i>Destination</i>	3	2		
<i>Tourism</i>		2		
<i>Promotion</i>	1	4		
<i>Fundraise</i>		1		
<i>Heritage Development</i>				1
<i>Transportation</i>			1	
<i>Connection</i>	2			

*Q6 - What do YOU think others need to know about the canal to be involved? How would you get other people like you involved in the corridor and its activities?*

*The first part of the question generated a great deal of information that was very specific to individuals and their Corridor perspective, whereas the second part focused almost entirely on communications (more and better). A summary list of ideas that was generated from questions 6 is given below to illustrate the diversity of ideas, yet understanding that the best vehicle to deliver them to get others involved is creative and multiple source communications.*

- *Show historical significance, foundational roots, heritage effects, create "Canal Experiences"*

- Create ways to link communities, understand connectivity and diversity along the entire length and the common thread of the communities including community events calendars
- Share stories of the communities with various layers through the decades as the corridor evolved
- Create, complete and communicate tangible result projects throughout the Corridor
- Illustrate how the Corridor is an economic driver
- Develop itineraries throughout, clearly marked portals and improved accessibility, utilize the "Burma Shave" sign concept, write a song
- Create a Corridor "User Guide" and smart phone App (Around the Canal)
- Educate all through books, Ken Burns documentary, NOVA or Jeff Baird TV special, Public radio or local TV access and social media (Facebook and Twitter - daily tweet Corridor events)
- Create a campaign to promote Larry, Moe and Curly
- Show recreational opportunities

*Q7 - How do YOU picture yourself in the Canal Corridor? (With the boy scouts camping or exploring, conservation efforts to rid of an invasive species, fishing, building a business, restoring a historical site, lecturing a group on a topic very dear to you.)*

*This was a question to understand the individual's vision of their being in the corridor and dreams of what the corridor could be for each of them. It had a great response with a wide variety of answers across 11 major topic areas. The chart below shows the number of times that each response mentioned the major topic from most to least. Some individual answers did include more than one major topic area.*

**Chart of Responses for Question 7 by Topic Mentioned**

	<i>Chicago</i>	<i>Joliet</i>	<i>Seneca</i>	<i>Alsip</i>
<i>Riding/Biking</i>	4	6	1	5
<i>Enjoying</i>	3	3	2	2
<i>Walking</i>		3	3	
<i>Boating</i>	1	3		1
<i>Exploring</i>	2	2		
<i>Cleaning/Planting</i>		2		

	<i>Chicago</i>	<i>Joliet</i>	<i>Seneca</i>	<i>Alsip</i>
<i>Writing</i>		2		
<i>Photography</i>	1	1		
<i>Learning</i>		1		
<i>Fishing</i>	1			
<i>Eating</i>			1	

*Q8 - What would increase YOUR interest in the canal? (When we each have "OUR TIME" what would YOU want to see in the corridor to increase a positive experience?)*

*When reviewing all the responses from this question, answers varied greatly, but seemed to fit into four distinct categories implied in each response - Activities, Historic Opportunities, Communications and Specific Programs. The following table summarizes the data in that way, showing the four categories and how participants responded at each session. Activities certainly were a major concern for each session, although, as you can see, Communications was the major response in Joliet. The complete list of all the responses is in the Appendix.*

**Chart of Question 8 by Category Implied in the Response**

	<i>Chicago</i>	<i>Joliet</i>	<i>Seneca</i>	<i>Alsip</i>
<i>Activities</i>	3	1	4	4
<i>Historic Options</i>	1	2	2	
<i>Communications</i>		7	2	
<i>Programs</i>		2	1	4

*Q9 - What would make YOU want to volunteer to help? What do we say and do? How would it effect you the greatest?*

*These last questions were to focus the individual to provide their understanding of what inspires them and possibly others to increased volunteerism. Obviously with greater volunteerism and participation, the Corridor can build more partnerships*

and accomplish more projects. These responses were tabulated into five distinct categories where again KEY Words were found in their responses and organized by those words. The following table shows the KEY Words in column one and the number of responses that contained those words for each session. Top response for this question dealt with communicating project accomplishments and results to inspire people to volunteer. Second highest response had the key words Fun/Enthusiasm/Celebrate.

Chart of Question 9 by Key Word Mentioned

	<i>Chicago</i>	<i>Joliet</i>	<i>Seneca</i>	<i>Alsip</i>
<i>Accomplishments/Results (A)</i>	2	3	3	3
<i>Fun/Enthusiasm/Celebrate (F)</i>		6	3	
<i>Sustainability (S)</i>	1	1	1	
<i>Ease(shorter distances) (E)</i>	2	1		2
<i>Inclusive Activities(I)</i>	3	2		

*All in all the sessions shed more light on how individuals perceive their interaction with the Canal and Corridor and generated more positive ideas and feedback during this Planning stage.*

Appendix

Question 1 - How can YOU best receive information that you will use and find useful?

*Chicago*

- *Emails with links and download*

- *Send information to partners/organization - they send it out to email list*
- *Email with link to blog or one stop website*
- *Put information on CCA website*

#### *Joliet*

- *Email*
- *Flyers in City buildings, flyers to partners*
- *Newspaper - Bugle in Lockport*
- *WJOL Will County*
- *JDK Morris*
- *Provide link in PDF*
- *Would like an email when something is going on with highlights or very concise*
- *Partners send email - libraries partners put info on website*

#### *Seneca*

- *-Via email*
- *PDF attached*
- *Emails when something is going on*
- *Info local radio WCSJ, WJDK, 95.3 The River, 96.5 The Wolf, WCMY 1430 A.M.*
- *Morris Daily Herald, Ottawa Daily Times (Ottawa)*
- *Notices to Historical Society, Chamber of Commerce*
- *Social Media - Facebook, Twitter*
- *What are you not getting directly now?*
- *Deadline in Historical Society newsletter*

#### *Alsip*

- *-Via email*
- *E-Newsletters*
- *Palos Heights Local TV "Community"*
- *Alsip Community News*
- *Nextel - Police Department*
- *Mayors and Managers - Southwest Conference of Mayors*
- *MP Website/Blog*
- *Link or PF doesn't matter*
- *CCA App/Map on an App*
- *Links w/Forest Preserves, Park Districts*

*Question 2 - What do YOU want to be involved with the Canal and in the Corridor? (Rank these 1-5, where 1 is the highest) What do YOU think the Management Plan's priority order should be?*

Chicago

YOU

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
REC	2	3	3	2	--
EDU	2	2	1	4	--
DISC	2	2	2	1	3
PRES	2	1	4	2	1
SEL/SER	2	1	--	--	6

M.P. (Management Plan)

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
REC	1	2	1	5	1
EDU	--	3	4	2	1
DISC	--	1	3	2	4
PRES	7	1	1	1	--
SEL/SER	2	4	1	--	3

Joliet

YOU

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
REC	3	6	1	2	--
EDU	3	1	7	2	--
DISC	5	2	1	4	1
PRES	2	3	4	4	--
SEL/SER	--	--	--	1	12

M.P. (Management Plan)

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
REC	2	2	2	5	--

<i>EDU</i>	4	2	5	1	--
<i>DISC</i>	2	1	2	3	4
<i>PRES</i>	4	6	1	1	--
<i>SEL/SER</i>	1	--	1	1	9

*Seneca*

*YOU*

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
<i>REC</i>	1	4	--	1	1
<i>EDU</i>	--	1	3	1	2
<i>DISC</i>	--	--	2	3	2
<i>PRES</i>	4	1	1	1	--
<i>SEL/SER</i>	3	1	--	--	3

*M.P. (Management Plan)*

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
<i>REC</i>	--	3	3	1	--
<i>EDU</i>	1	--	--	3	3
<i>DISC</i>	--	1	2	2	2
<i>PRES</i>	5	1	--	1	--
<i>SEL/SER</i>	1	1	2	--	3

*Alsip*

*YOU*

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
<i>REC</i>	5	3	--	--	--
<i>EDU</i>	--	1	6	1	--
<i>DISC</i>	2	3	1	1	1

<i>PRES</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>--</i>
<i>SEL/SER</i>	<i>--</i>	<i>--</i>	<i>--</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>7</i>

*M.P. (Management Plan)*

	<u><i>1</i></u>	<u><i>2</i></u>	<u><i>3</i></u>	<u><i>4</i></u>	<u><i>5</i></u>
<i>REC</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>--</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>EDU</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>--</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>--</i>
<i>DISC</i>	<i>--</i>	<i>--</i>	<i>--</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>PRES</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>--</i>
<i>SEL/SER</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>

Question 3 - Where are YOU on a continuum of interest? (Shown as participants per level)

*Chicago*

L1	-	10
L2	-	8
L3	-	10
L4	-	4
L5	-	4
L6	-	--

*Joliet*

L1	-	14
L2	-	14
L3	-	14
L4	-	8
L5	-	7
L6	-	--

*Seneca*

L1	-	7
L2	-	6
L3	-	6
L4	-	4
L5	-	4
L6	-	1

*Alsip*

L1	-	8
L2	-	8
L3	-	7
L4	-	3
L5	-	6
L6	-	--

Question 4 - What importance is it for YOU to have the Canal, and its activities in your area? Why?

*Chicago*

- Chicago Canal is foundational to the roots of this area
- Part of our heritage
- Historical and recreational destination

- Canal is missing link in Chicago's history
- Important economic driven, its own link (tourism, bringing in revenue)
- A critical link for types of towns, link communities provide common characteristics
- Creates a brand
- Don't want to lose a valuable part of our heritage
- Vital parts of American history

### *Joliet*

- Opportunities to Lockport Downtown sustainability/economic development base downtown activities around canal
- Historically significant, recreational opportunities, wildlife only significant park in Minooka
- Recreation aspects of the canal, opportunity to recreate off the busy roads, safely recreate
- Recreation, community, sense of roots, pride historical significance - why we are here!!
- Communities along the canal bound together move forward
- Tourism Destination/Economic Impact
- Untapped Resource
- Place to go for recreational opportunities with education emphasis positively or actively learn about the history of the canal
- Historical significance

### *Seneca*

- Thru downtown - integral part
- Recreational opportunities
  - Historical/Community came from place where I live, work and play. Important to promote the Canal away from the Canal
- Connectivity among communities
- Historical/Community came from place where I live, work and play. Important t

### *Alsip*

- History
- Recreation
- Accessibility of activities throughout the Corridor
- Sat. or Sun. afternoon wine-tasting
- Miss Lockport dinner lecture series
- Wine
- Water the CANAL

- *Canal to be as close to its original likeness as possible*
- *Cultural history - what was here before and where we are going*

Question 5 - *What do YOU want from the canal/national heritage corridor?*

*Chicago*

0. . . *to be the ultimate destinations for locals to provide and visitors to experience art, culture, history, entertainment, recreation and commerce.*
1. *Champion a plan to restore the Canal from Willow Springs to Lemont.*
2. *I would like the Corridor to preserve the I&M Canal and the evidence of the Marquette and Joliet expedition.*
3. *Preserve and promote the Canal.*
4. *Fix up Canal and trails sites. Develop the canal tourism e.g., the history museums, bike rental shops, boat rental shops, restaurants and hotels.*
5. *Help extend the I&M bike trail from Rt. 83 to the confluence.*
6. *I would like the Corridor to preserve the story of the Canal and tell it in a way that is easily assessable to people throughout the Chicago metro area.*
7. *To be a tourism destination.*
8. *Be more complete (more historical, interpretive sites, especially in and nearer to Chicago).*
9. *To work with schools to educate young people about our history.*
10. *To be a recreational destination.*
11. *Connect its trail to the Hennepin Canal Trail.*

*Joliet*

0. *Have more history markers along the corridor about the actual workers and their families that dug the canal. In particular the Irish.*
1. *Did Lincoln visit along the canal and when and where and mark it?*
2. *Improve Communications and Education of the Canal.*
3. *Consider Educating Elementary and Jr. HS Kids about the Area and the Canal History and the Current Uses.*
4. *To support the maintenance and up keep of the canal.*
5. *Continue its effort with preservation and education of the Heritage Corridor. Also apply for more grants for preservation and education of the canal.*
6. *Raise funds to maintain the path and areas adjacent to the canal.*
7. *To be a national park.*
8. *To become a significant historical destination.*
9. *More interactive with working parts or demonstrations along the route.*
10. *To market the canal--engage the communities along the canal to get the word out.*
11. *To provide pedestrian/bicycle access from end to end (even though part of the path ay not be able to run along the canal).*

12. *Generate tourism to help preserve and support our historic downtowns and local economy while the canal becomes self sustaining.*
13. *To promote/propagate Education of canal and its significance.*
14. *Preserve and Develop canal.*
15. *Coordinate a "trails day" for volunteers to help educate, maintain and use the path and areas.*
16. *I would like the I&M National Heritage Corridor to have canoe rentals, bike rentals, a short book about the canal, a coffee shop, re-enactment groups.*
17. *Create designated locations along the canal where a significantly sized festival co-existing of re-enactment of the life during the hey-day of the canal construction/use can be presented--also music fests with some "period" music and some contemporary music (like: Jazz and Heritage in New Orleans)*

#### *Seneca*

0. *Restore the Canal to a Viable/useable source for historical preservation and recreational venue.*
1. *To provide an online map showing all communications and access points in the corridor.*
2. *To provide information on EVERY community in the Corridor on their website.*
3. *To provide signage on the Interstate (I-80) for access points.*
4. *To maintain the entire path on a routine basis.*
5. *To have linkages between develop effective communities along the Canal that enable people in preservation of natural and historical resources/recreational activities/foster discovery and education ?????*
6. *Continue its investment in promoting the Corridor while providing events and attractions that bring people to the Canal.*
7. *I would like ??? (can't read the card)*
8. *I would like the I&M Canal Heritage Corridor to be an alternate form of getting to surrounding communities to stimulate tourism and economic development.*
9. *To invest in overall maintenance and preservation of existing facilities and recreational opportunities.*

#### *Alsip*

- *Be more accessible to people in the Chicago metro area and the Calumet-Sag region, on both the trail and the waterway.*
- *I would like the I&M Heritage Corridor to continue to provide a place for people to meet and enjoy the outdoors.*
- *To succeed at all of the 5 levels.*
- *Provide bike and canoe access throughout entire Corridor.*
- *To provide more volunteer opportunities in the Lockport area.*
- *Work with communities throughout the Corridor to improve upon the ??? of the canals and increase the amount of activity available to the public.*

- *To provide a frame for Calumet-Sag trail so it is a part of a bigger entity.*
- *Continue to improve facilities along the Canal, provide better signage of historical locations, and offer more events along canal locations.*

*Question 6 - What do YOU think others need to know about the canal to be involved? How would you get other people like you involved in the corridor and its activities?*

#### *Chicago*

- *Need to know it exists*
- *Need to know historical significance*
- *What I&M stands for*
- *Understand the connectivity and diversity of the I&M Canal from Chicago to LaSalle/Peru*
- *Significance of the canal - what connection resonates to the individual*
- *Layers to the story (history, recreation) past vs. present*
- *Make it easily accessible to the public - develop itineraries (history, recreation) for sections of the Canal*
- *Burma Shave signs*
- *Users Guide: explains various aspects of the Canal with driving map including modern amenities "Around me app" I&M Canal*
- *Make the Corridor a tourist destination a staycation*
- *Where to start? Develop clearly marked portals to begin exploration of Canal*
- *Make information available to public about what the IMCNHC offers*
- *Watering of the I&M Canal*

#### *Joliet*

- *Through Boy Scouts*
- *Ancestry of the Canal*
- *Birth of transportation*
- *We can lose our heritage, our identity, be involved to preserve*
- *Preserve on heritage/break it up into little projects Excelon (successful little projects)*
- *What their input will end in - something tangible*
- *We need a song*
- *Model promotion/recreation Erie Canal C&O Canal*

#### *Seneca*

- *What guidelines - how they can promote the plan?*
- *What is it going to do for me?*
- *What can you do for other people?*
- *What is it?*
- *What's the Canal experience? Nature, history.*
- *Canal runs through river communities.*
- *Where to eat, unique shops, bike shop/repair?*
- *What stops are there along the way?*

- *Various tours?*
- *Points of interest - food, shops, history.*
- *Creating opportunities along the Canal.*
- *Communities sell themselves.*
- *The "Canal Experience"*
- *Common threat of Canal communities*
- *Partnership is critical/sharing the stories of the Canal.*
- *Grain elevator*
- *Let people know they are in the Corridor*

#### *Alsip*

- *Need to know what's out there*
- *Better communication*
- *Education about the importance of the Canal positive communications program*
- *Educate the kids "school"*
- *How many communities in the Corridor have events around the Canal*
- *Word out to all communities*
- *Need to know about Moe Curly Larry*
- *Meet Larry on tour with replica of the boat at summer events*

#### *Question 7* - *How do YOU picture yourself in the Canal Corridor?*

#### *Chicago*

- *Riding my bicycle on the tow path.*
- *Further exploration! ??? Lockport and Romeoville museums.*
- *Riding a bike, fishing.*
- *Biking, running, photography.*
- *Ride from Joliet Preservation and back (Metra to/from Joliet).*
- *Exploring history sites, bicycling.*
- *Picnic and having quality family time.*
- *Boat ride near from Chicago or in Chicago.*
- *Go to a museum that tells more about the history*

#### *Joliet*

- *Riding bikes with my family from Joliet until time to turn back. Stop along the way and enjoy the history.*
- *Walking and exploring.*
- *Hiking, exploring, learning*
- *Cleaning the banks of Plastics and Debris*
- *Planting Prairie Grass*
- *Kayaking the canal.*
- *Riding a bike and thinking/talking about what the role the canal played in Chicago's History.*
- *Walking from Lock 1 to Gaylord Museum*

- *Walking or Kayaking*
- *Bike, Rollerblade, Canoe or Kayak*
- *Riding my bike or running*
- *Riding my bike, stop for lunch*
- *Sitting on a Bench at Mile Marker 66, Most peaceful place on earth*
- *Writing about the significance of the canal for historical societies and organizations.*
- *Taking photos of the canal for a book.*
- *Writing a book about the canal*
- *Riding Bikes, reading historical markers, discussing with people how it all works.*

#### *Seneca*

- *I picture myself on a ???*
- *Hiking on tow path.*
- *Eating at an area food establishment.*
- *Riding my bike - enjoying the sights and sounds of nature.*
- *Free Time: Mountain walk/small pack, birding, exploring, fishing for a spell, eat a snack, coffee, hike.*
- *Relaxed, educated and enjoying the time to feel like it was worth doing.*
- *Enjoying nature and historical sites.*
- *Taking a walk to look over areas for potential development of recreation and tourism.*

#### *Alsip*

- ◆ *Bicycling along the trail and stopping in one of the towns for lunch before heading back.*
- ◆ *Riding a bike.*
- ◆ *Biking.*
- ◆ *On a bike or in a canoe.*
- ◆ *Visiting the Illinois State Museum in Lockport.*
- ◆ *My work on the Canal Corridor will be as a representative for the Village of Alsip on issues and programs that affect the Village.*
- ◆ *Riding my bicycle at Willow-Springs, some day taking Cal/Sag trail to those points.*
- ◆ *Checking out the boat for a ride or spending time at Starved Rock or Mathiessen State Parks.*

Question 8 -*What would increase YOUR interest in the canal?*

#### *Chicago*

- *More of what you're doing (A)*
- *More infrastructure (A)*
- *More facilities (bike rental, i.e., passive services) (A)*
- *Docent led bike tours (H)*

- *What Stops Interest?*

- *Disconnect trial system*

*Joliet*

- *Specific implementation plan (A)*
- *Knowledge - itinerary - what can I do on the Canal (C)*
- *More information - books (C)*
- *Establish historic recognition (H)*
- *Transportation Hub of the Nation goes back to the Canal essence of who we are - pride - value- make them understand the story of the Canal (C)*
- *Tourism - where to go in Illinois (C)*
- *Place to be along the Canal/be involved in what's going on (C)*
- *How to capture daily users? Convenience of use (P)*
- *More promotion - 30 sec. commercial (C)*
- *Amenities along the Canal - parking, playgrounds, historic structures (P)*
- *No appreciation for Fox River Aqueduct (C)*
- *A working lock (H)*

*Seneca*

- *Better Maintenance and upkeep (A)*
- *Increase water in the Canal (A)*
- *Develop and promote points of interest (C)*
- *Effective linkages of communities (P)*
- *Developing Along 6 (A)*
- *Local history - stories of people, places (H)*
- *Community work effort (A)*
- *Easier/quicker process for communicating with IDNR (C)*
- *Developing projects that recreate history (H)*

*Alsip*

- *More activities in the Calumet Region (P)*
- *Variety of Activities (A)*
- *Music (P)*
- *Lectured hikes, guided tours, biking tour (P)*
- *Clean-up of Canal (A)*
- *Bedford Park 65<sup>th</sup> Archer I&M Canal Civic Centre Activity (P)*
- *Trail connection through Joliet (A)*
- *Bike Ferry (A)*

Question 9 - What would make YOU want to volunteer to help? What do we say and do?

How would it effect you the greatest?

*Chicago*

- *Knowing what I do would be of real value (A)*
- *True funding stream (S)*
- *Distance/time (too far/more time) (E)*
- *Weekend events (E)*
- *See results (A)*
- *Process whereby we include communities organization know what's going on along the Canal (I)*
- *Coordinate activities (I)*
- *A clearing House (I)*

*Joliet*

- *Knowing big picture and how what I do will contribute (A)*
- *Know about matching fund (S)*
- *Free food(F)*
- *Volunteer as a group - working with friends - we worked on the I&M Canal - "Can you dig it? "(F)*
- *Making it convenient (E)*
- *Make it satisfying(A)*
- *Regional efforts - for sections (I)*
- *Target certain professions: engineers, GIS expert, lawyers (I)*
- *Incorporating community service hours(F)*
- *Recognition for your efforts(F)*
- *How will what I do be meaningful?(A)*
- *Adopt a project approach(F)*
- *Make it FUN(F)*

*Seneca*

- *End result (A)*
- *Long term maintenance/sustainability (S)*
- *Spark some enthusiasm (F)*
- *Not only work but fun (F)*
- *See accomplishments (A)*
- *Celebration (A)*
- *Tangible evidence/accomplishment (A)*

*Alsip*

- *A good volunteer opportunity (E)*
- *Local opportunities (E)*
- *See more stuff happening - see progress (A)*
- *Small projects (A)*

*Comprehensive plan/clear*

*Outcomes of the November 2010 Public Workshops*

*The November 2010 Public Workshops provided the steering committee with information on the best ways to keep the public informed of the programs and activities of the Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor. It also informed the steering committee of ways to increase interest and involvement within the heritage corridor. This information collected was used in developing the Communications and Sustainability Plans in Part 5 of the Management Plan.*

*Type of Meeting: Steering Committee Conference Call*

*Date: 12/8/10*

*Place: N/A*

*Time: 4:30-5 PM*

*Participants: 11 members of the steering committee*

*Topic of Meeting: Update on status of the management plan*

*Outcomes*

*Updated the steering committee on the status of the management plan and the timeline for completion of the management plan.*

*Type of Meeting: Steering Committee Meeting*

*Date: 1/12/11*

*Place: Four Rivers Environmental Center*

*Time: 3-6 PM*

*Participants: 12 members of the steering committee*

*Topic of Meeting: Reviews Parts 1-3 of the Management Plan*

*Outcomes*

*The steering committee reviewed the draft of parts 1-3 of the management plan. They suggested multiple revision and additions to the draft of the management plan. Several steering committee members re-wrote sections of the management plan and submitted their revisions to the writing team.*

*Type of Meeting: Public Workshop*

*Date: 2/23/11, 2/24/11*

*Place: Lockport City Hall, Lockport  
Lock 16 Center, LaSalle*

*Time: 7-9 PM*

*Participants: 14 (Lockport), 10 (LaSalle)*

*Topic of Meeting: Alternatives for the management structure*

*Meeting Concept: The facilitator presented all three alternatives both visually and verbally and then led discussions to further generate opinions of each alternative.*

*Comment cards were provided for those who preferred not to speak during the discussions. A final choice of one alternative was also asked of all participants.*

### **Summary Discussion/Comments**

*The main focus for these meetings was to explain, discuss and obtain feedback on the three management structure alternatives that had been posted on the web site. In review, Alternative 1 was "Do nothing different" or make no changes to the way projects are handled throughout the corridor. Alternative 2 was a "Membership" structure where all members pay dues to participate and Alternative 3 was the "Alliance" structure where everyone had an opportunity to participate by being part of the overall group that shared a common vision and goals. The general public was to be given 30 days to comment, but these meetings were initiated to gather further, in-person comments.*

*In summary, the responses at both sessions were, as in the past, somewhat similar in both places. Throughout the entire public input process over the last 16 months, there were many similarities of opinion regardless of the location in the Corridor, yet each location usually had some local character in some of the input. In the next two paragraphs, summary information captured will be stated for this report understanding that individual's comments that were written are all tabulated and available as a documentation entry from the Management Plan website. Individual comments that were spoken during the public sessions are summarized in the table at the end of this report categorized by Alternative, whether positive or negative.*

*For Lockport, the group was divided with the majority preferring Alternative 3, yet one or two preferred either Alternative 1 or 2. Much of the discussion centered on concepts that pertained to showing value, bringing value or the organization will die. A key concept for the staff was to have all projects stay within the vision. We need to understand that whichever alternative, the more projects we have, the more people we have that see them, the more chances we have to increase our resources from volunteers to gifts in kind to revenues. Communications throughout the year to all was also critical, so people would see the activity level and enable networks to form throughout the participants. Lastly, once implementation starts, there were comments that the structure must provide the ground rules for everyone to understand, create processes that everyone will use and show and tell about all the projects being done.*

*As for LaSalle, they, too, had a majority in favor of Alternative 3, but it was not unanimous at all. Reasons for their opinions again are captured on their comment cards that were tabulated and posted as indicated previously. Discussion centered on the alternative that could provide the strongest leadership, which many agreed to be needed. Also, strong staffing was needed to better manage administrative costs with a need for self-discipline on the utilization of management, staff and volunteers.*

*Spoken comments captured during the public discussions at both Lockport and LaSalle.*

<i>Alternative 1</i>	<i>Alternative 2</i>	<i>Alternative 3</i>
<i>This one is simple and can be expanded</i>	<i>lets anyone have "skin" in the game</i>	<i>It is very inclusive</i>
	<i>Self selecting</i>	<i>Gifts-in-kind can benefit all</i>
	<i>provides administration income stream</i>	<i>Flexible design to grow or shrink based on needs</i>
	<i>Must always show progress or members will stop paying dues</i>	<i>Could be too complicated and break under it's own weight</i>
	<i>Some have high interest to participate, but may not have any money for dues</i>	<i>This seems to bring all people together better</i>
	<i>Possibly paying dues without rewards</i>	<i>Brings people together with similar interests</i>
	<i>Better to spend dollars on projects than getting members</i>	
	<i>Some might work through a member rather than join</i>	

**LOCKPORT 2-23-11 NOTE CARDS**

*Alternative #2 - Also has the pro/con regarding on how you view it of "skin in the game" i.e., an assignment of value because people or groups must pay to belong! This would also assure an administrative income stream - another "pro" possibly. Self-selection is another advantage as premium members must make a value judgment to join.*

*Alternative #2 - Has the advantage of control of the "identity products" of the Corridor - only members can use the logo, etc. - this allows distinctive branding.*

*Stories Goal:*

*Last paragraph speaks of "Four Interpretive Themes" but never says what the four themes are!*

*Canal is a public amenity - collaboration among anyone interested is vital to overall health of the entire Corridor. I see that this can be done in either option 1 or 3.*

*Alternative #3 for us is best - we have very little funding but we do have volunteers, staff that can work towards earning funding.*

*Our organization is interested in the connection between the land that is now Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie and the I&M Canal when the boundaries of the Corridor were drawn in 1983. Midewin did not exist. At that time, it was the mothballed Joliet Arsenal. The boundary map of May 1983 numbered IMC-80.000 may not include Midewin. Land that had been part of the Arsenal (now part of the DesPlaines conservation area) adjacent to Midewin, contains the Kankakee feeder canal. Logically the large track of public land, Midewin - should be including within the Canal Corridor.*

*Alternative #3 provides for the greatest inclusions of individuals, groups, organizations, etc. It keeps all of these entities connected. There may be an ebb and flow of involvement based on project interest, but at least those groups would still be kept as a partner and informed. If dues were required, a group not seeing a current project of interest to them might choose to drop out.*

*To get me excited sustain my interest "Show Me the Canal": meetings outside, highlight areas along Canal, problems on Canal; special places on Canal; town "show and tell" along Canal.*

*Management Plan Goal - Recreation Goal: Please revise first paragraph - more of a negative introduction. Should focus on positives and potential uses - like in paragraph #2. Connections to other community resources through walking, biking, equestrians, etc. Paragraph 2 - why say skydiving? Are snowmobiles going to be allowed on trails?*

*Of all the towns and communities listed as affiliates, what is their budget situation? State local funding is projected to be very tight for the next 3-4 years. What impact will this have on getting matching funds?*

*Alternative #3 is too complex. Too many meetings, committees run amuck. Some get too powerful and compete with/against others for CCA attention/priorities hard to sustain this time commitment by volunteers year after year. CCA needs to keep control and focused.*

*Believe Alternative #1 already had set up subcommittees (feature of Alternative #3). Do not believe Alternative #1 as "No Action".*

*Management Goal pg 2, first paragraph - "A fund for the Canal created over 10 years ago . . ." What does this contribute to this piece? Be more positive and forward thinking with this piece. Create more excitement about the Canal.*

*I like the alliance model as it is most inclusive, but seems too convoluted and complex. Also fundraising model not clearly explained in this version.*

*Consider the economy and start up. The CCA is established and states it will expand with funding. This seems a more reasonable start up approach. Plan 2 is too restrictive. Plan 3 is complex and likely to have many dead ends with the present economy.*

*My Choice - K.I.S.S. works; #1 can be hybridized towards #3. #2 inherently restricts choice of projects. Limits success. #3 could break under its own weight. Too complex. Can't be everything to everyone.*

*Recreational Goal - Commend CCA for putting "expanded" into bold print statement, but expansion of trail system not specified in text. Grand Illinois Trail not mentioned. Consider calling out Heritage Park as an example of what CCA would like to promote.*

*What we do now is not as inclusive as it could be (as I would like it) in order to take advantage of our resources. Alternative #3 allows a variety of activity, interest, involvement, to be more able to use our area's resources.*

*Alternative #3 - I view like a spider web - core structure strands "Plan Principles", web can grow and expand with any person or entity vestment toward goals of the plan, web allows greater sensibility with more "network strands", web can degrade/be degraded, but remain functional.*

### **LASALLE NOTE CARDS**

*Strong leadership committee (Need one)*

*#3 - recruiting strong leadership will be a challenge. However, this approach has good potential for people and organizations together.*

*Alternative #3 - Requirement for strong volunteer leadership at committee level. CCA management will have to use discretion in controlling its staffing and operating costs at the expense of providing programming.*

*Boat captain luncheon to report on the entire Canal Corridor.*

*I think that the alliance partner would allow for all interested parties or stakeholders to take part. I like the alternate being all inclusive. Committee*

*structure would allow for better input in overall process. Will take more effort to make it work but would be well worth it.*

*If #1 not functional then 3 over 2 because segregation of \$ from control of projects greater overall flexibility is found in 3. If 1 functional and can adapt to future goals then do not restructure the entire organization. Time and cost may not equal goals realized from restructuring.*

*1) issues with present organization, 2) # of people to make alternative #3 work - staff to initiate outcome, 3) segregate \$ amount from organization good vs. #2 where contributors have largest voice, 4) result of call for projects earlier this year. 5) Lack of big tent. Park service wants us to reach out to more groups with federal \$.*

*How does the CCA insure its continuing existence? All models depend on this! Organizational sustainability should be a top priority!! "Ask not what the Corridor can do for you, but what you can do for the Corridor"!*

### ***Outcomes from the February 2011 Public Workshops***

*The final public workshops gave the public an opportunity to review the three alternative management structures proposed for the Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor. The third alternative was definitely the preferred alternative. However, several individuals advocated for alternative two because it required more investment. After listening to the concerns and cautions from the public, the writing team modified alternative three to include more investment by the public.*

***Type of Meeting: Steering Committee Meeting***

***Date: 3/23/11***

***Place: Four Rivers Environmental Center***

***Time: 3-6 PM***

***Participants: 10 members of the steering committee***

***Topic of Meeting: Management Plan***

***Outcomes***

*The writing team presented the steering committee with an updated draft of each section of the management plan. The steering committee suggested changes, additions, alternatives and comments on the draft. Although multiple suggestions*

*were discussed, the steering committee was pleased with the overall concept and content, especially part four of the Plan. The steering committee discussed the results from the February 2011 public workshops noting that the public confirmed their choice of alternative three.*